

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 22, 2005. In the Office Action Summary, it states that claims 1, 3, 7-8, 12, 15, 16, and 20-28 are pending in the application, however, claims 1, 3-10, 12, 15-16, and 20-28 are pending but claims 4-6 and 9-10 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 12, 15, 16, and 20-28 have been rejected. Claims 8, 16, 22, 24, 27 and 28 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-10, 12, 15-16, 21-25, and 28 and have cancelled claims 26-27. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 26-27 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 12 and 21 has been amended to delete the phrases "cross nodal portion", "off nodal portion", and "to limit off nodal pressurization". Applicants do not concede that the rejection is proper, but have made editorial changes to expedite prosecution.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1, 12 and 21 and dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 recites the phrase "to limit off-nodal pressurization". Pursuant to MPEP §2173.05(g), inclusion of function language in a claim does not render a claim indefinite where the function language defines precise structural attributes of the subject matter claimed as in means-plus function claim 20.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 15, 21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ye et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,982,582.

Claim 1 as amended recites a raised bearing surface or surfaces along a leading edge portion of the slider body having a narrow cross width within a center portion of the slider body and raised bearing surfaces along an intermediate portion having an expanded cross width relative to the cross width of the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the leading edge portion of the slider body. Ye discloses bearing surfaces (81), (82) and (83). In Ye, surfaces (81) and (82) extend along opposed sides of the slider and thus do not teach bearing surfaces having a narrow cross width within a center portion of the slider body as claimed. As shown, edges of surfaces (81) and (82) of Ye extend or nearly extend to the sides of the slider along the leading edge portion which teaches away from a narrow cross width along the leading edge portion as claimed.

Claim 12 and dependent claim 15 as amended includes a raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above a recessed surface or surfaces and the raised bearing surface or surfaces having a narrow cross width along leading edge portion of the slider body and a raised center portion spaced from opposed sides proximate to the trailing edge of the slider body. As discussed above Ye does not teach a narrow cross width along a leading edge portion as claimed.

Claim 21 and dependent claims 3, 7, and 23 as amended recite subject matter of cancelled claim 27. Allowance of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 15, 20, 21, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang, U.S. Patent No. 6,275,467.

Claim 12 and dependent claim 15 recite raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above a recessed surface or surfaces and the raised bearing surface or surfaces having a narrow cross width along a leading edge portion of the slider body and a raised center portion spaced from opposed sides proximate to the trailing edge of the slider. In Wang, bearing surfaces 60, 62 and 63 provide a large NOT a narrow cross width along a leading edge portion in contrast to the recited claim limitations. Claim 12 as amended also recites a raised center portion spaced from opposed sides of the slider proximate to the trailing edge. On page 8 of the Office Action, it states that Wang fails to teach a raised center pad proximate to the trailing edge spaced from opposed sides. Based upon the foregoing, allowance of claim 12 in view of Wang is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 recites a bearing surface means on the slider body for providing a nodal pressure profile to limit off nodal pressurization. Means-plus-function claims are interpreted based upon the corresponding structure disclosed in the specification and equivalents. The Office Action fails to establish that Wang teaches the corresponding structure disclosed in Applicants' specification or equivalents and thus withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 and dependent claims 25 and 26, as amended incorporate subject matter of cancelled claim 27 including a raised center portion proximate to the trailing edge spaced from opposed sides which as acknowledged in the Office Action is not taught by Wang,

Applicants acknowledge that claims 8, 16, 22, 24, 27 and 28 were indicated to be allowable.

Allowance of withdrawn claims 4, 5, 6, and 9-10 is respectfully requested upon allowance of a generic base claim.

New claim 29 is added. Favorable consideration of new claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Formal drawings are enclosed with this Amendment. Acknowledgement of receipt of the formal drawings is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 
Deirdre Megley Kvale, Reg. No. 35,612
Suite 1400 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312